



## **Royal Tunbridge Wells Croquet Club**

### **Minutes of the AGM held on 14 February 2026**

#### **Present**

Chris Barham, David Grimshaw, John Greenwood, Michael Gentry, Paul Gamba, Phil Taylor, Jim Flanagan, Carole Mackenzie, Michael Mackenzie, Peter Player, John Moore, Sheila Ferris, Tim Luke, David Pratt, Trevor Houghton-Berry, Jeff Chapman, Angela Chapman, Rosalind Marriott, Victoria Moll, Kate Sander, Denis Cruse and Jack Ingle.

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Jon Diamond, Doug & Sally Hamilton, Adrian & Sheila Phillips, Eric Diston, John Bateson, Roy Parsons, Martin Carmichael, David & Michelle Boyse, Michael Trapp, Barney Lewis and Jon Savage.

#### **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous AGM held on the 25 January 2025 were approved. There were no matters arising.

#### **3. Chairman's Report**

Chris welcomed everyone to the AGM.

We had not been successful in the CSE leagues having had the following played/won results: AC U league. P4 W1, GC Level. P4 W1 and GC Handicap East P4 W0.

There were, however, notable individual successes. Mike Gentry and Martin Burger won Don's day GC Doubles, Phil Taylor won the Weldon Trophy in East Dorset in June and Thomas Cullis won the Abbey Challenge Cup (A class) at Sussex County Annual Tournament in August.

Thomas also achieved the CE AC gold merit award – the first time it has been gained by a player while a member of RTWCC.

Chris said the booking system has been a success and it showed that (as a minimum) in Aug-Sep there had been over 93% of days when there was activity, in Oct nearly 70% and in Nov Dec 20%. Social croquet was split 60% GC and 20% AC.

The questionnaire has provided valuable feedback and he encouraged all who hadn't completed the survey to do so. He outlined some of the feedback to date. A full report will be sent to members in due course.

Chris said he would like to thank the committee and all the volunteers for their help in running the club, in particular:

Jon Diamond – Coaching, Website, Honeygrove Cup  
Ruth Wallwork - safeguarding officer  
John Moore - Irrigating system  
Tim Luke – Captain CSE AC U league, Pegasus plate tournament, Hoops  
Victoria Moll – Pub lunches  
Paul Gamba – New members, club afternoons, private events  
Kate Sander – Catering, Cleaning, Gardening  
Michael Gentry – GC day events, Montevideo Cup, GC league  
Jeff Chapman – Lawns, Clubhouse maintenance  
Ray Kemp - groundsman  
David Grimshaw and Trevor Houghton-Berry – GC Club handicappers  
John Greenwood – AC Club Handicapper

On a sadder note, Chris noted the loss of two longstanding members, John Timmis last year and earlier this week Reginald Bandy. Chris said he would have details of Reg's funeral arrangements which he will pass on to those who wish to attend.

## **5. Lawn & Facilities Report**

Jeff Chapman gave his report on the club facilities.

As anticipated at the last AGM, we have purchased a new mower. It is a very good quality, multi-function machine as used by a number of croquet clubs

Once again, the very wet weather has resulted in a lot of moss and earthworm casts on the lawns which Ray is addressing.

In view of the recent years' bad Spring weather, the annual lawn maintenance will not take place this Spring and will revert to Autumn treatment from now on.

Jeff said the clubhouse is looking rather shabby and he again asked if members could please volunteer a few hours of their time to assist him and those currently helping maintain the facilities.

Ray Kemp is happy to stay on for one or two more years. He is showing a replacement the ropes ready for him to take over as groundsman.

A number of points were raised by the meeting.

1. Could the lawn dividers be stored in a more accessible way as it was very difficult with the present arrangement? The committee will look into this.
2. Should the silver birches by lawn 2 be felled? Jeff noted that he roots under the lawn down a to foot deep had been removed so it was felt the lawns were not being too adversely affected. The committee will continue to monitor the situation.
3. Could cushions be provided for the benches? It was agreed that this was a good suggestion and the committee will purchase some.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report & Approval of Accounts**

David Grimshaw presented his report for 2025, the Statement of Account and Summary having been sent to all club members before the AGM.

David explained the change of banks from Santander to HSBC was because the former had started charging monthly fees for our account.

He noted that it was expected that the club fees would need to be increased in future and the Committee considered it better to have larger, less frequent increases than smaller, annual increases hence no increase in fees this year.

A number of points were raised by the meeting.

1. Wouldn't a large increase deter renewal more than more frequent, smaller increases? It was felt there was a balance to be made and this would be kept in mind for future increases.
2. The increase in the CqE affiliation fee compared to the previous year was noted. This down to the Medway Club members joining RTWCC during 2024.
3. It was suggested that it would be better to have a subscription-only structure (as opposed to the present smaller subscription plus voluntary donations) . Dave noted that a no-donation system would require a substantial increase in the subscriptions as the club is able to claim Gift Aid on most donations. The general feeling of the meeting was to continue with the present arrangement.
4. It was suggested one way to attract new members could be to allow under 25s, say, have unlimited free guest games. It was generally agreed that the free first game and cheap later green fees should be sufficient as introductory sessions for potential new members.

#### **6. Subscriptions and Green Fees**

The earlier announcement on the membership & green fees for 2026 was noted, namely that they would all stay as last year:

First year's full membership: £60 up to 30 September and then £40/£30 if joining in October/November. December joiners to pay £70 for both December's and the following year's full membership.

Second and following years' full membership £120.

Student, Second Club and Social memberships £45.

Corporate memberships at the committee's discretion.

Green fees for members' guests £10/half day and £15/day.

#### **7. Election of Trustees , Honorary Officers & Elected Members**

The AGM elected the following nominated trustees, honorary officers and committee members with immediate effect (with no objections).

1. Trustees nominations
  - Jon Diamond (proposer Chris Barham)
  - David Grimshaw (proposer John Greenwood)
  
2. Honorary Officer nominations
  - Chris Barham (Chairman) (proposer John Greenwood, seconder David Grimshaw)
  - David Grimshaw (Treasurer) (proposer John Greenwood, seconder Chris Barham)
  - Phil Taylor (Secretary) (proposer Chris Barham, seconder David Grimshaw)
  
3. Elected Member nominations
  - Jeff Chapman (proposers Chris Barham & David Grimshaw)
  - Paul Gamba (proposers Chris Barham & David Grimshaw)
  - Mike Gentry (proposers Kate Sander & Paul Gamba)
  - Kate Sander (proposers Chris Barham & David Grimshaw)

Chris Barham thanked John Greenwood for all his work as Honorary Secretary for the past 9 years and presented him with a bottle of champagne.

## **8. Resolutions**

No resolutions had been proposed.

## **9. Presentation of trophies**

Chris Barham announced the trophy winners for the 2024 season and presented them to those winners attending the AGM (\*).

### **Association**

Spa Salver: Thomas Cullis

Lustau Cup: Chris Barham\*

Lewis Shield: Jon Savage

Calverley Cup: 2024 Thomas Cullis, 2025 not completed

Howell Cup: not contested

Miriam Reader Memorial Doubles: John Greenwood\* & Jack Ingle\*

### **Golf**

Hunter Plate: not completed

Kitching Rose Bowl: Jon Savage

High Bisquers: Robert Hassell

Handicap Doubles: not completed

Fraser Tankard (Teams): "The A Team"\*

John Hobbs Cup (most improved player): Phil Taylor\*

Winter Challenge 2024-2025 Trevor Houghton-Berry

### **New Members Competitions**

The GC New Members competition was won by Doug Hamilton. The AC New Members competition was not held this year.

## **10. Any Other Business**

1. It was asked if the GC half-way points be marked on the lawn. It was noted that remarking would be needed when the lawns are moved. Also, they are guide to where to place the half-way pegs which club members seldom if ever use. If pegs are wanted on any occasion then it is straightforward to place them. On balance the expected infrequent use of pegs by members didn't appear to merit the extra groundsman's time in marking/remarking the guide lines.
2. Mike Gentry said he was standing down as organiser of the Fraser Tankard. The committee will look for a new organiser.
3. It was noted that Advantage Play Starting Scores had been replaced by Target Scores. The number of points to be scored to win remained the same for each player but the new system meant players don't have to deal with negative numbers. The committee will inform the membership of the change and put up the new chart on the club house notice board.
4. The meeting agreed that the Fraser Tankard matches should be Advantage Play rather than Level Play.

## **11. Closing of the meeting**

The meeting was closed at 12.20pm.

## **12. Open Discussion**

It was noted that the turnout on the social GC sessions had often been poor. There was a general discussion on how to improve attendance with the main suggestion being that a member who is available to host a session confirm that they will be at the club so all know there will be a game for them if they also go down. It was noted that anybody coming down should be offered a game straightaway eg a singles game could play on as a 2 v 1 game.

Chris noted that Jon Diamond was going to do some short croquet coaching sessions which might encourage some to take up either the full or short versions of the AC game.

John Greenwood  
Honorary Secretary  
26 February 2026

Christopher Barham  
Honorary Chairman

David Grimshaw  
Honorary Treasurer